REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-7, 12-13 and 23 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,632,310 to *Freeman*.

Claim 1 of the subject application is directed to a flexure comprising a plurality of plies of composite material consolidated everywhere except at at least one predefined region where preselected adjacent plies are purposefully delaminated so they can move relative to each other when the flexure is bent.

Freeman is directed to a disk drive actuator and method of making same. The actuator 10 of *Freeman* is comprised of an upper planar element 36, a lower planar element 38, a flexure member 40 and a spacer member 42 comprising a third planar element 44. See Col. 5, lines 31-36 and Fig. 4 of *Freeman*.

The applicant submits that *Freeman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of the applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, *Freeman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest preselected adjacent plies which are purposefully delaminated so they can move relative to each other when the flexure is bent. The Examiner states that *Freeman* teaches delaminated regions. However, the applicant submits that the actuator arm of *Freeman* is completely laminated. *Freeman* states "Lamination is accomplished by aligning and bonding multiple fiber layers to form fiber planar elements, and by aligning and bonding one or more fiber planar elements to the flexure planar element." Col. 3, lines 24-27. *Freeman* also states that "when the planar elements are all aligned and appropriate pressure is applied, the adhesive spreads out and uniformly fills

the space between the planar elements that encapsulate the flexure member". Col. 3, lines 61-64. See also Col. 3, lines 27-60 and Col. 9, lines 26-28 at *Freeman*.

These sections, which are exemplary of the entire disclosure of *Freeman*, clearly show that the entire actuator arm of *Freeman* is fully laminated together. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, *Freeman* does not disclose, teach or suggest delaminated regions as claimed by the applicant. Additionally, as fiber planar elements 36 and 38 of *Freeman* are bonded to flexure planar element 44, the fiber planar elements cannot move relative to each other when the flexure is bent as claimed by the applicant.

Additionally, independent claim 23 claims a composite flexure. Flexure 40 of the disk drive actuator of *Freeman* is not made of a composite material; nor is there any teaching in *Freeman* to make flexure 40 of a composite material. As such, the disk drive actuator of Freeman includes non-composite components. Accordingly, the applicant submits that *Freeman* fails to disclose a composite flexure as claimed by the applicant.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 12, 13, and 23, and dependent claims 2-7 are patentable over *Freeman*.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, (781)890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

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